

Town of New Fairfield
Board of Finance
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Tom Edwards
John Hodge
Jane Landers
Anthony Yorio
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate
Rick Salem, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Steve Burfeind, BOE Chairman
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/Accounting Manager
Amy Tozzo, BOE Vice Chairman
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Ernie Lehman, Planning Commission member
Gail Lehman, Library Board Chairman

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments None

Correspondence- None

Addition of the agenda

Wes Marsh made a motion to add as Agenda item #7A “Discuss and possibly vote to accept the recommendation of the Audit Subcommittee for auditor for the 2015-2016 audit year.” Anthony Yorio seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Rudy Bahrens spoke of the drop in enrollment in the schools and how it affects the budget.

Library Board Chairman Gail Lehman spoke of the effect of budget freezes on the library and specifically library services and small children that will lose the opportunity to make up programs that were cut.

Lisa Weisenberger inquired about additional security in the school and specifically an SRO or SSO and asked if the three major boards (BOE, BOS and BOF) could get together to discuss this further.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- John Hodge abstained)

Budget Transfers

There are no Inter-Departmental transfers at this point. The BOS recently approved some Intra-Departmental transfers. John Hodge asked about the check for the Candlewood Lake Authority. Finance Director Evelyn Abraham noted that the check was sent this week.

Acceptance of Auditor

Wes Marsh noted that he received information from the audit firm of O'Connor Davies noting that they agreed to do the audit for the 2015-2016 year at the same price as last year of \$52,000.00 and will add an IT Security audit at no additional charge.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the audit firm of O'Connor Davies for the Town of New Fairfield for the audit year 2015-2016 for a fee of \$52,000.00. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Planning discussion- 2016-2017 fiscal year

Chairman Wes Marsh provided the board with charts and information regarding the planning for the budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. He spoke of three specific demographic groups in town which included citizens under 65 years old with children less than 18 years old, citizens under 65 years old with children over 18 years old and senior citizens.

The board discussed the drop in student enrollment and how it will affect the BOE budget.

Chairman Marsh spoke of five areas for the budget which includes: Operating, GASB 45, Medical Insurance, Debt Service and Capital and Nonrecurring projects.

There was a discussion of cutting expenses and zero based budgeting. It was noted that the Grand List is expected to go up by less than 1% this year.

There was a brief discussion of the state budget and it was noted that it is usually finalized after the towns have finalized their budgets. First Selectman Susan Chapman noted that she has invited the State Legislators to attend a meeting with the major boards on Wednesday, January 27th.

ONGONG UPDATES

Medical update- Finance Director Evelyn Abraham will be meeting with the new medical representative in the near future. There was a brief discussion of possibly reviewing the medical contract in the near future.

Legal update- No report

Year to date expenses review- No report

Current year revenue update- Finance Director Evelyn Abraham noted that a check for \$50,000 from EMS will be received soon.

Evelyn Abraham noted that the town may not receive PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) from the state this year.

Cap & Non review- There was a discussion of Parks and Recreation capital projects. Evelyn Abraham will send information to the board regarding the New Field Facility Fund.

Public Comment

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of enrollment in the schools and noted that lower enrollment does not necessarily mean lower costs regarding high school classes.

Board of Education Chairman Steve Burfeind spoke of the BOE budget and education requirements.

Future agenda items

The board will discuss the audit presentation, the 2016-2017 budget and the medical insurance contract in the near future.

Board member comments

The board wished everyone Happy Holidays and congratulated the New Fairfield High School Rebels Football team.

Chairman Wes Marsh reminded everyone to pay their taxes in January.

Adjournment

Jane Landers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)